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Honolulu City Council

I am writing you once again, with different reasoning in the hope that you hear our community's collective words.

I testified of how a few people were holding the neighborhood hostage and how so many of us have incurred damage to our property, business disruption due to the people staying in the area and many businesses have even moved or closed due to our neighborhood circumstances. If the safety and security of our community members in our area is not enough, I ask that you listen to other logic.

The very funding in which the City Council functions with is paid for directly through taxation of businesses and persons.

We can all agree that laws and ordinances put forth by the State and City are meant to keep safety and order as well as to provide deterrents to those whom do not follow.

In the past few months on this issue I find myself not with answers but with many questions for the Council.

As a community are we allowed to request expansion of ordinances pertaining to the City and County when we feel that it is necessary for our neighborhoods?

Doesn't the city and state have laws against camping on public sidewalks? If so then why are select groups of people allowed to camp on the street near our businesses?

If people are not considered to be "camping" and rather given rights to claim the dwellings as their "residences" then aren't there laws in fact that require you to get a permit? I'm wondering why the City allows a group of individuals to build on Public Areas that was meant for use by everyone? By not enforcing any laws in effect, would that be the same as "allowing" it? Would it not be discrimination against all other groups if only the houseless were allowed to build in public areas? If I were to build a porch for my child to play on in a public area, would it not be torn down and I be possibly fined? If I were to decide I just don't want to pay for my mortgage or rent and I would rather build on public property or live in a vehicle would that be ok?

I want to know why other people are given more rights than that of the people that are rightfully working and residing in our neighborhood?

Would it be better to not act and allow the tents to dictate the manner in which business are conducted in the area? Should we continue to lose revenue or close and possibly force hundreds more to lose their jobs?

The SPO office does their job by removing bulk items and cleaning the street on a regular basis. I've witnessed trash piles built up over 20 feet long and 10 feet wide. What would happen if they did not come? Are we to do nothing and allow the build up? Would huge piles of filth not be a sanitation concern which would endanger the public? Does the piles of trash not also pose as a huge fire hazard to the buildings and people in the neighborhood? Just two weeks ago there

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was a huge fire that broke out in the tents across the Senior Residence in Iwilei. The residents reported the flames and loud explosions. The fire quickly engulfed the entire tent and spread to the other tents nearby.

I applaud the ACLU for all of their hard works and efforts to protect the rights of those they deem it necessary, but by attempting force the city councils hand I feel that it effects the rights of others whom are unjustly effected.

We currently have a law that states the the sidewalk has to be clear for handicapped/wheelchair access at 19 inches. After doing some research and speaking to several handicapped persons I find that 32" is a comfortable standard size for a doorway and that at a mere 19" it is impossible for them to navigate on the sidewalk. In addition on Kaumualii Street we walked with one of our friends whom can not see. Although he is can expertly navigate almost anywhere, we walked with him so that he would not find himself in a predicament. On our brief stroll he was forced to walk into oncoming traffic in the middle of the lane into oncoming traffic on several extended periods because the sidewalks were completely blocked. In addition to the areas blocked, the unobstructed sidewalk areas had other chest to neck level obstructions which included make shift clothing lines, ropes attached to tents and tarps and sticks and poles. On the street surface there was trash, shopping carts on the side walks and streets to reserve areas for their owners as well as Self designated street parking spots. There was parked bicycles, beach chairs and set ups also intentionally blocking the sidewalks. There was also areas of mysterious mud puddles that seemed to have sitting water where there should be none. This is all on the same street in 2 blocks. By allowing people to stay on the street it does not help anyone's situation.

Unfortunately Hawaii's homeless problem is an issue that we have no simple solution in sight.

It's easy to point fingers at each individual organization. But the fact of the matter is, everyone is doing their job. HPD responds to calls, SPO sweeps relentlessly for our public safety, and IHS outreaches to the public to offer shelter, food and services to the houseless

Unfortunately we can not solve the problem of homelessness today.

But we can do something to help alleviate Hawaii's businesses. We are asking for the council to help pass a "Sit Lie Ordinance" in our area. Our testimonies today given is for keeping our business open, protecting our patrons and residences. By not passing a "Sit Lie" it is saying that it is giving approval to stay.

\*\*In addition to my last testimony I want to add that 2 days after our March hearing that the HPD was able to make arrests not several ( but not all) of the suspected drug dealers.

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I support Bill 13 (2017)  
I do not wish to speak at the Council Meeting